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A "SUGARING" PARTY IN VERMONT

Courtesy of Boston & Maine R.R.

Little Boy Uncle Dan Liked The Best

BY FRANCES MARGARET FOX

VER since he could remember, Peter Granger had wished to visit his Uncle Dan's sugar-camp in the North Woods. When he was a little fellow four years old he supposed that everything in the camp was made of maple-sugar; now that he was eight he knew better.

Peter lived in a village where the winters were too short to please small boys. He liked to ask questions about the deep snow that still covered the ground in the North long after violets began to bloom by his own front gate.

The springtime when he was eight years old Peter's father and mother decided to take him to visit Uncle Dan and Aunt Ellen during sugaring time.

"Let's take all the boys with us!" said Peter.

Of course that could not be done. When Uncle Dan heard about it though, he told the family that Peter could invite one boy to come with him. Aunt Ellen said so.

Then Peter's troubles began. He liked so many boys it was hard to tell which one he liked the best. At last he gave it up.

"When Uncle Dan comes to get us on his way home from the city, he will have to pick out his own boy!" said Peter.
"If I choose one myself all the other boys
will think I don't like them."

When Uncle Dan came Peter told him all about it and asked him to please choose a boy. That made Uncle Peter laugh. He agreed to choose a boy though, if Peter would promise not to tell his playmates what was going to happen. To make it easier for Uncle Dan to get acquainted with the small boys that Peter played with, his mother finally gave a party. She told Peter to invite all the boys he liked to come to his party and play with him on Saturday afternoon. Peter said,

"Mother, I have invited all the boys in school, and Johnny Austin to come to my party."

"Who is Johnny Austin?" his mother asked.

"He is the new miller's little boy," Peter answered. "He has to go home and work every night after school. He says he has to do the chores. That is why we can't play with him much: but I like him. He is going to get up extra early Saturday morning and get all his Saturday chores done so he can come to the party. I hope he'll have a good time."

Johnny did have a good time at the party. He was such a merry little fellow he kept them all laughing. He was willing to be "It" when nobody else wanted to be "It." He ran after the ball when Bennie Bean threw it so high over the woodshed that it landed away out in the stubble-field. The other boys said that Bennie didn't play fair: but Johnny said, "Who cares?" climbed the fence and found the ball

When Peter's mother came in the yard and asked if any small boy there would do an errand at the village store for her, it was the smiling Johnny who offered to go. He ran to the store and he ran back.

It was like that all the afternoon. Johnny was the boy who helped every one everywhere and didn't think he was doing anything except having a good time. He was patient with Peter's little sisters, too.

Just before the ice-cream was passed, when the boys were all in the house waiting, Peter said, "Let's hide the thimble!"

He knew he ought not to take his mother's precious gold thimble from her work-basket, but he was sure it wouldn't get lost nor stepped on: and the boys did have lots of fun hunting for the pretty thimble. It was hidden away somewhere when Peter's mother called the boys into the dining room to eat ice-cream and cake.

"But wait a minute, here you Artie Brown," Peter insisted, "you hid the thimble last, now where is it?"

"I have forgotten," said Artie Brown.
"It'll turn up all right!" And straight
to the dining-room went that Artie Brown
so he would surely be on time for icecream.

"But I've got to find the thimble," Peter said to Johnny Austin. "It is my mother's gold thimble, you know."

"I'll help you," offered Johnny, "we mustn't let it get stepped on."

At last Peter's mother missed her boy: so she called him into the dining-room. He owned right up about the thimble; he said Johnny Austin was still hunting for it; "The good kid!"

Just then Johnny came into the diningroom. He was beaming with smiles.

"Did you find it?" asked Peter.

Because all the boys kept still and looked at him, Johnny felt bashful. All he did was to nod his head.

"Did you put it back in the work-basket?" continued Peter.

Johnny nodded his head again.

Next minute all the boys noticed that Johnny's plate of ice-cream was almost too full if it should begin to melt; but it didn't melt; Johnny didn't give it time.

That evening the new miller and his

family had a great surprise when Peter and his Uncle Dan came to call. They were more surprised when Uncle Dan invited Johnny to go away up North with him for the spring vacation.

"We will visit Uncle Dan's sugar-camp," Peter said to the delighted Johnny, while Johnny's father and mother talked with Uncle Dan and thanked him.

"I wonder how it happened?" said Johnny Austin at late bedtime.

His mother believed she knew: but she only smiled and said, "I hope you will always try to be kind and polite, my son."

Peter and Johnny had a beautiful time at Uncle Dan's sugar-camp, and were friends ever after.

The Snow And The Rain BY BEULAH KING

HE snow was deep and soft and feathery. Small Emily tossed it hither and thither as she ran along. Small Emily was very happy. A short way ahead on the long narrow street was the toyshop and in the toyshop was a wee curly-haired doll. It was a beautiful doll and it cost just fifty cents. Small Emily was going to buy that doll.

Outside of the toyshop Emily stopped and looked in at the big window. There in the very midst of the toys stood the curly haired doll stretching out her arms to Emily. "She's waiting for me," Emily whispered and thrust her hands into her coat pocket. Somewhere in its dark depths was her shiny half dollar and Emily's cold little fingers searched for it. They scurried from one corner to the other and back again. The shiny half dollar was not there.

In the window the curly haired doll was stretching out her arms. Emily pulled the coat pocket inside out. A shower of hard crumbs and bits of wooly dust struck the feathery snow at her feet. That was all.

"Oh," gasped Emily. She turned her back on the curly haired doll. "I had that half dollar," she whispered, "I had it in my pocket when I went in school." She hurried down the street and back to the schoolhouse searching every step of the way. There was nothing shiny in the soft feathery snow only footprints—footprints—footprints!

Back at the toyshop she met Adrienne—Adrienne who sat next her in school and who had never owned a doll, not even a penny doll with painted hair.

"Hulloa," said Adrienne, "what's the trouble?"

"I've lost a half dollar," said Emily, 'and I was going to buy the curly haired doll in the toyshop window."

Adrienne stared. "The curly haired doll?" she gasped.

"Yes," said Emily pointing to the wee doll that stretched out her arms to them.

Adrienne swallowed with a queer gulping sound. "That's funny," she said, "because I—I was going to buy that doll myself."

"You!" cried Emily, "but how can you—" she stopped and looked down at Adrienne's worn rubbers and much mended stockings.

Adrienne flushed. "The teacher gave me the money," she said simply.

Quite suddenly and without warning a mean thought popped into Emily's head—a thought that made her flush to the roots of her hair. "Oh," she said and patted down the snow with her rubber.

Adrienne looked in at the toyshop window. The curly haired doll had never looked more charming. Adrienne wanted her more than anything in her whole life—more than she had wanted the sled with the gold eagle on it—much more. She would call her Annabelle for that was both sensible and frivolous. She would talk to her at night after the others had gone to bed. She would brush her curly black hair and wash her funny stiff dress. Perhaps she would make her some clothes—a gingham dress—a pink silk and a really truly hat with a feather on it.

"What are you thinking about?" asked Emily. The mean thought was still in her head. "Adrienne has found my half dollar," it kept saying. "Adrienne has found my half dollar and she won't give it back to me. She is telling a falsehood about the teacher. The teacher did not give her a half dollar. It's my half dollar she has. It's mine." The longer the thought persisted the more certain Emily felt it was true. It was like a small demon whispering to her-a small demon that she should have shut her ears to the minute he spoke. Now he had taken possession of her. Now he was fairly shouting in her ears. She looked at Adrienne, Adrienne was talking-telling her about all the things she had planned to do with the curly haired doll.

Emily pursed her lips. "I don't think you're very kind," she said. "I don't think you're very kind to tell me what you're going to do when you know I want that doll most dreadfully." There was anger in her voice. "I would have had her too," she went on "if I hadn't lost my half dollar!" The demon was whispering. He wanted her to say, "It's very funny the teacher should have given you a half dollar to-night just when I've lost mine. It's very funny."

Emily opened her mouth to repeat the demon's words but Adrienne was speaking. "Of course you did get to the Toyshop first," she said, "and I'm sorry you lost your money. If you like I'll help you search for it and then you can buy the doll." Adrienne's eyes looked straight into Emily's but the demon was whispering again. "Of course she's willing to help you search for it," he said. "She knows you'll never find it because she's got it safe in her pocket."

Emily tossed her head. "I don't think I'll ever find that half dollar," she said and walked away.

Adrienne watched her go. "I'm sure she has other dolls," she thought. "Besides she need not be angry with me because she lost her money. She's selfish about that doll."

The toyshop door opened and a rush of warm air struck Adrienne. "O-oh!" she said and hurried into the shop.

The toyman came forward smiling. "If you please," said Adrienne, "I would like that curly haired doll in the window."

"Certainly, miss," said the toyman.
"One half dollar." He went over to the window and reached in among the toys. The next minute he was wrapping up the curly haired doll. "She's a bargain," he said. "There won't be another like her for some time—not for that money, miss."

Adrienne smiled. "She's very beautiful," she said.

Out on the sidewalk she unwrapped the curly haired doll. How soft her curly hair was to be sure and how bright her eyes. What a delicate tint to her fat cheeks. Behind her red lips two pearly teeth gleamed white. "I shall call her Annabelle," Adrienne whispered.

And then quite suddenly she thought of Emily. There was something about the doll's red mouth that reminded Adrienne! If Emily hadn't lost her half dolmoving. The doll was talking. After all she belonged to Emily. Emily had come to the toyshop first to buy her. Emily had thought about her for days and days-well, so had she, Adrienne! Emily had looked into the toyman's window a hundred times-well, so had she, Andrienne! If Emily hadn't lost her half dollar the curly haired doil would be hers. It was sad to find your money gone when you had run all the way to the toyshop to buy the curly haired doll. It was cruel to be disappointed when you had set your heart on having a thing. Emily had never been obliged to give up to someone else but with Adrienne it was different. She was always having to share this or that with a small sister. It wouldn't be half so hard for her to give up the curly haired doll-not half so hard.

It was growing dark. The street lamps threw their pale yellow lights on the soft feathery snow. Adrienne wrapped up the doll and hurried along, her lips pressed tight. "I'll give her to Emily," she said. "She belongs to Emily. Emily came to the toyshop first." All the way she repeated the words and when she reached Emily's house she was breathless.

There was a brass knocker on Emily's door and Adrienne lifted it once, twice, three times. It was Emily who answered it and she had been crying.

"Hulloa," said Adrienne. "I have brought you the curly haired doll." She thrust out her hand with its brown paper parcel.

Emily snatched it, her eyes flashing. But it was not Emily speaking. It was the demon that had been whispering to her all the way home from the toyshop. It was the demon that she had allowed to take possession of her. "I should think you had better give it to me," she cried. "You found my half dollar and kept it

when you knew it was mine!"

Adrienne gasped. She couldn't speak. She opened her mouth but the words would not come. She just stood there staring stupidly. The next minute the heavy door had banged to and she was alone on the doorstep.

Within, Emily had unwrapped the doll. How soft her curly hair was to be sure and how bright her eyes. What a delicate tint to her fat cheeks. There was a look about her mouth that reminded Emily of Adrienne.

Without, there was the sound of crunching snow. Adrienne was going down the steps. Emily went to the window. Down the street Adrienne's tall slim form was hurrying home. "Of course she found my half dollar," Emily murmured. "Of course she found it and I'm glad I said what I did to her."

That night the curly haired doll slept in a brass bed with a patchwork covering. No doubt she slept very well. Beside her in a bigger brass bed with a bigger patchwork covering slept Emily. The curly haired doll shut her eyes tight as soon as her head struck the pillow but Emily was a long time going to sleep. Three times she raised herself on her elbow and looked at the curly haired doll. "She's mine," Emily murmured. And each time she said it she was more certain that what the demon had whispered to her was the truth. She could see Adrienne hurrying from school along the long narrow street, her feet pressing the soft feathery snow with a funny crunching sound. She was singing-Adrienne often sang-and then of a sudden she saw her stop and stoop down. There in the snow was something bright-her half dollar. In a flash Adrienne had it in her hand and was going straight to the toyshop. Emily had long since forgotten that she had been ashamed of such a thought when it first came to her-so ashamed that she had flushed to the roots of her hair. The demon that she had been willing to listen to had made her forget that.

In the night it rained, a wild drenching rain and by morning the soft white snow had gone. Emily picked her way to school over slushy holes in the street and over gutters with mad rushing torrents. At the toyshop window she stopped. Where the curly haired doll had been stood a wooden man with a red coat. He was a poor sort to take the place of such a beauty.

Emily turned away humming. She liked to think the curly haired doll was safe at home, that she belonged just to her—that no one could take her away. At noon when she went home she would find her just where she had left her on the broad window seat.

The sidewalk was very wet. A river of water ran across it. Emily looked down to gauge her step. There at her very feet on the curbing lay a shiny half dollar! The stream of water washed over it in swirls.

Emily stood stock still. Her eyes were



Yawns
BY ELEANOR KENLY BACON

O H, don't you wish you were here with me

And my nice dog "Chum", by the sleepy

That yawns and yawns at our feet all day,
And Chum yawns and I yawn. Sometimes we play

We are shipwrecked sailors or pirates bold

On a desert island with bags of gold.

We roll and romp in the nice warm sun Till supper is ready, and then we run—

Chum to his bone—I to my bread And milk and apple-sauce and bed!

wide. Like the wild rush of water in the gutter below the thoughts went rushing through her head. What had she done? She had accused Adrienne of finding and keeping her half dollar. She had accused her only because Adrienne happened to have a half dollar on the very night she had lost hers. She had not believed Adrienne when Adrienne told where the money had come from. She-she had let the wicked thought come into her head and she had not tried to put it out. She had let the wicked thought stay and whisper mean things to her about Adrienne. How sure she had been, too, how very sure. Then she thought of the curly haired doll and the tears welled up in her eyes. "I want her," she said aloud.

Ding—dong—ding—dong went the school bell. Emily stooped and picked up the half dollar then turned and ran back home splashing through the wet. The curly haired doll was just where she had left her. Emily picked her up and ran out of the house. She would face Adrienne much as it would hurt. It was all her fault for believing such things about her schoolmate. One had no right to believe such things. It was very wicked.

In the school basement she found Adrienne. "I'm sorry," she gasped thrusting the curly haired doll into Adrienne's hands. "I'm sorry for what I said to you last night. It—it wasn't true." She held forth the half dollar. "I found my half dollar this morning after the snow had melted away. I want you to take it and the doll too. I—I'm awfully sorry."

Adrienne smiled kindly. "It's wicked to let yourself think evil things about peo-

ple," Emily went on. "It's much better to trust them no matter if—if things do look queer."

Will The Price of Radium Come Down?

BY FELICIA BUTTZ CLARK

HE other day it was reported that a nurse in a city hospital had picked up a wad of cotton and thrown it away, thinking it of no value. Hidden in the cotton was a tiny piece of radium, which had been used for treatment, worth \$3,000. It was not found.

Radium is so rare that its price is above that of jewels and it has proved to be of untold worth in curative uses. The reason for its money value is that so little of the mineral is known to exist.

The United States is the second holder of radium among the nations. Germany has sold all the radium she had during the war and has not been able to buy any since. France has a small quantity. England is not buying now, but is the greatest storage centre.

Radium was discovered by Madame Curie working with her husband, Professor Curie, in Paris, only twenty-five years ago, and owing to the scarcity has been held at \$50,000,000 a pound! The world's supply is calculated at 10 ounces, of which America holds about 5 ounces.

Two years ago, radium was found in the Belgian Congo, Africa, and that brought prices down from \$110 a milligram to \$70.

Only a short time ago, so it is reported from Petrograd, a Russian Government expedition found in Turkestan the largest and richest deposit ever known, and it is proposed to place this at the disposal of physicians and hospitals in the United States, reducing the price to \$35 a milligram.

Radium is so valuable for medical use that an effort is being made to prevent its diversion into commercial projects. Already there is radium on 12,000,000 watch dials. It has also been utilized in batteries and motors. A clock in Berlin is run by radium power, the cost of which in three years has been only \$10.

The Electric Spark

BY CLARENCE E. FLYNN

SEE this snappy little spark
Flashing pertly in the dark;
Coming with its sudden gleam
Out from nowhere, it would seem;
Glowing here against the shade,
Fire unkindled, light unmade,
Brother to the bolt's fierce blow
And the driving dynamo.

Here is hid the mystery,
Mayhap, of the land and sea.
All creation's story may
Hide within this flashing ray.
Light, and heat, and force it holds;
Boundless energy unfolds;
Tells the secret, if we find it,
Of the God who stands behind it.



THE BEACON CLUB

OUR PURPOSE: Helpfulness. OUR MOTTO: Let your light shine. OUR BADGE: The Beacon Club Button.



Writing a letter for this corner makes you a member of The Beacon Club. Address, The Beacon Club, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

The superintendent of the Unitarian church school at Marlboro, Mass., Mr. Howard H. Searles, reports that they now have 31 members in our reports that they now have 31 members in our Club, all but three having joined within the past three months. At Christmas time the "All Stars" Club of this school gave a Christmas play of which we are told in letters that have been written by fifteen members of the cast. We cannot publish all these letters but are publishing the one which fifteen members of the cast. We cannot publish all these letters but are publishing the one which gives the most general information about the play. This was written by one of the "courtiers", and is

Dear Miss Buck:—The present and prospective members of the Beacon Club took nearly all the parts in the Christmas pageant we had at Sunday school Christmas Sunday. The play was "Queen Christmas", by Carolyn Wells,—something our superintendent found in an old Woman's Home Companion, and got copies of from the Penn Publishing Co., Philadelphia. He rehearsed the play and Mrs. Dorothy Elderkin helped and took care of the music with the Sunday-school orchestra. Mrs. Leonard helped with the costumes for the boys.

Yours very truly, EDWARD BIGELOW.

Other members of the cast were Lawrence Clark, herald; Reginald Morley, steward; Margaret Seeley, king; Verdi Carpenter, Stuart Matheson, George H. Bigelow, Lambert Bigelow, courtiers; Pauline M. Leonard, First Joy; Harriette Leonard, Second Joy; Ruth Smith, one of four girls taking the part of "Decorations"; Ruth Fletcher and Alfred Conad, "Gifts"; Katrina Gesner, "Snow"; Arthur Proctor, "The Christmas Tree"; Ruth H. Leonard, "The Spirit of Love"; Lucella Jones, "Queen Christmas". Christmas".

> 2731 E. ADMIRAL STREET, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Dear Miss Buck;—I am a member of the Unitarian Sunday school of Tulsa. I am thirteen and in Mrs. Rachel Merry's class. There are two boys and two girls in my class; we are small but growing. I read The Beacon and would like very much to be a member of the Beacon Club.

Sincerely yours,

BEATRICE GEORGE.

Other new members of our Club are Arnold Robinson, Palo Alto, Cal.; Hazel Kohler, San Francisco, Cal.; Allen Robinson, Washington, D. C.; Ruth Anderson, Houlton, Me.; Dorothy Rose Bourne, Kennebunk, Me.; Frank Smith, Jr., Kansas City, Mo.; Dorothy Baldwin, Dorothy and Helen M. Cheever, Lena and Walter S. Frye, and Elizabeth Robbins, Wilton, N. H.; Charles Sears, Buffalo, N. Y.

A Happy Memory BY THE EDITOR

Members of our church schools are surely glad to recall a beautiful life and fine leadership, even when the one who gave it is no longer with us. Dr. William C. Gannett of Rochester wrote hymns which our schools and churches sing; poems that carry to us a life message; and sermons known wherever beautiful English is read. He was a pioneer in Sunday school work, and prepared courses of lessons that had great value.

It is proposed that our schools use the devotional service on Sunday, March 16 (following his birth-date, March 13) as a happy memorial of Dr. Gannett. Any of his hymns in the book in use in the school may be sung. One or more brief readings from his prose or poetry may

A brief talk about his beautiful life and his work as a Unitarian leader may be made. If possible, close the service with his hymn of thankfulness for the whole year, "Praise to God and thanksgiving." remembering to be glad that such a life was given to our fellowship and to the world.

Will not any readers who see this item take steps at once to see that such a service is held in your own church school next

Church School News

HE school in our church in Nashville, Tenn., organized about two years ago by our field worker, Mrs. Algernon S. Smith, is in good condition and well managed under the superintendence of Miss Adelaide Lawrence. Besides classes for boys and girls, there is an adult class under a very competent teacher.

The school at Buffalo, N. Y., like the one in our Cleveland church, selected "Why the Chimes Rang" as the Christmas play to be given at the annual church-school party and Christmas festival. The play followed a supper to the members of the church school, an annual observance, which this 'year had the largest attendance in five years, 275 being served at the supper. The social service work of this school at Christmas time brought greater satisfaction to the teachers than any work of the sort ever before attempted by the school. Each class made its own offerings during the month of November for the purpose of taking care, at Christmas, of some needy families. Information about the families who might thus be served was secured from the Children's Aid and the Family Welfare societies. The teachers found not only the names of families but the number of children, with their ages, and any information that could be secured as to their needs. Each class adopted a family the first Sunday in December, and

"it was delightful", reports one of the teachers, "to see their eagerness in doing so and their desire to take the largest families. Some of the classes held special meetings and all of them put much time and thought into their plans for service. The teachers and in companyees teachers, and in some cases, members of the classes, delivered the baskets. All reported much gratification in doing so, finding such appreciation on the part of the families and much friendliness in their contact with them. The classes have expressed a desire to keep in touch with these families and be desire to keep in touch with these families and be even more friendly toward them, which some of them are doing. We have done a similar service many times before but this year we felt that the pupils' own thought and enthusiasm went into their act of service more than at any other time. A real personal touch and a spirit of friendliness and brotherhood was aroused and our school benefited as much as did those whom they served."

RECREATION CORNER.

ENIGMA XLIV

I am composed of 20 letters and am a famous

My 8, 9, 10, 17, 1, is an injury. My 5, 6, 7, is yourself. My 2, 11, 12, is not young. My 4, 3, 5, is to speak.

My 15, 16, 4, 18, is to take medicine by quantities.

My 13, 3, 19, 20, is a small child.

My 14, is a vowel.

ENIGMA XLV

I am composed of 27 letters and am a resolu-I am composed of 27 letters and am a resolution for every day.

My 5, 20, 21, 8, is used in making shoes.

My 4, 13, 14, 18, is a fat used in cooking.

My 17, 16, 10, 6, is a burden.

My 11, 9, 26, 19, is a pronoun and adjective.

My 12, 24, 7, 25, is a part of an automobile.

My 22, 3, 15, is a young goat.

My 2, 1, 4, 5, is determination.

My 23, 7, 27, is a plaything.

J. A. I.

T. A. T.

M. T.

METAGRAM

I am a word of four letters and am the name of a native of a northern country of Europe; change the first letter and the following word will

Long, but with a turning.
A help to the aged, a kind of plant.
Anything injurious.
Showing how the wind blows.
Belonging to some animals.

E. O. S.

WORD SQUARE

To put into the ground for growth

Toil or exertion, mental or physical. To treat rudely.

scents

Smells or scent

E. D. A.

INSECT DIAGONAL

X x

Beginning with the first letter of the first word, proceed diagonally downward, and find an insect.

1. A bird. 2. An animal. 3. A piece of jewelry. 4. A month. 5. A girl's name. 6. A

Boyland.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES IN NO. 21 ENIGMA XL.-A merry heart doeth good like a

medicine.

ENIGMA XLI.—Junior Alliance.

What Am I?—Cat's paw.
DECAPITATIONS.—1. Lace, ace. 2. Lone, one. 3.

Lair, air. 4. Laid, aid. 5. Lout, out. 6. Ledge, edge. 7. Loath, oath. 8. Lark, ark.

PI.—A stanza from Longfellow.

Spake full well in language quaint and olden,
One who dwelleth by the castled Rhine,

When he called the flowers so blue and golden,

Stars that in earth's firmament do shine.

Stars that in earth's firmament do shine

THE BEACON

REV. FLORENCE BUCK, EDITOR.

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